

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 5 1. A method comprising:
 receiving a single hardware I/O control block
 by a host adapter integrated circuit wherein said
 host adapter integrated circuit interfaces two I/O
 buses and further wherein said single hardware I/O
10 control block specifies a write data transaction
 for a first data storage device; and
 analyzing said single hardware I/O control
 block by said host adapter integrated circuit to
 determine whether information in said single
15 hardware I/O control block specifies a mirrored
 write data transaction for a second data storage
 device.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said analyzing
20 said single hardware I/O control block further
 comprises:
 determining, by said host adapter integrated
 circuit, whether an entry in a first mirror
 hardware I/O control block field of said single
25 hardware I/O control block is valid.
3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
 generating, by said host adapter integrated
 circuit, a second hardware I/O control block upon
30 determining said entry in said first mirror
 hardware I/O control block field is valid wherein
 said second hardware I/O control block specifies
 said mirrored write data transaction for said
 second data storage device.
- 35 4. The method of Claim 3 further comprising:

executing said first hardware I/O control block and said second hardware I/O control block independently by said host adapter integrated circuit.

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5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising:
posting as complete only a last of said first and second hardware I/O control blocks to complete executing.

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6. The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
executing said first hardware I/O control block by said host adapter integrated circuit as a non-mirrored write data transaction upon determining said entry in said first mirror hardware I/O control block field is invalid.

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7. A method comprising:
receiving a single hardware I/O control block by a host adapter integrated circuit wherein said single hardware I/O control block specifies a write data operation for a first data storage device and includes a sister hardware I/O control block field; and

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generating another hardware I/O control block by said host adapter integrated circuit upon said sister hardware I/O control block field containing a valid hardware I/O control block identification number wherein said another hardware I/O control block specifies said write data operation for a second data storage device so that said write data transaction is mirrored.

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8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said valid hardware I/O control block identification number is a

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pointer to a storage site in an array of hardware I/O control block storage sites.

5 9. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:
 placing a hardware I/O control block
 identification number of said single hardware I/O
 control block in a sister hardware I/O control
 block field of said another hardware I/O control
 block.

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 10. The method of Claim 7 wherein said another
hardware I/O control block includes a sister hardware
I/O control block field, and said method further
comprises:

15 placing a null hardware I/O control block
 identification number in said sister hardware I/O
 control block field of said single hardware I/O
 control block upon completion of execution of said
 another hardware I/O control block prior to
20 completion of execution of said single hardware
 I/O control block.

 11. The method of Claim 7 wherein said another
hardware I/O control block includes a sister hardware
25 I/O control block field, and said method further
 comprises:

 placing a null hardware I/O control block
 identification number in said sister hardware I/O
 control block field of said another hardware I/O
30 control block upon completion of execution of said
 single hardware I/O control block prior to
 completion of execution of said another hardware
 I/O control block.

35 12. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:

reporting completion of execution of only one of said single hardware I/O control block and said another hardware I/O control block.

- 5 13. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:
 reporting completion of execution of said
 single hardware I/O control block only if said
 sister hardware I/O control block field of said
 single hardware I/O control block contains a
10 predefined value.
14. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:
 reporting completion of execution of said
 another hardware I/O control block only if said
15 sister hardware I/O control block field of said
 another hardware I/O control block contains a
 predefined value.
15. A method comprising:
20 receiving a single hardware I/O control block
 by a host adapter integrated circuit wherein said
 single hardware I/O control block specifies a
 write data operation for a first data storage
 device and includes a sister hardware I/O control
25 block field;
 generating another hardware I/O control block
 by said host adapter integrated circuit upon said
 sister hardware I/O control block field containing
 a valid hardware I/O control block identification
30 number wherein said another hardware I/O control
 block specifies said write data operation for a
 second data storage device so that said write data
 transaction is mirrored;
 placing a hardware I/O control block
35 identification number of said single hardware I/O
 control block in a sister hardware I/O control

block field of said another hardware I/O control block;

5 placing a null hardware I/O control block identification number in said sister hardware I/O control block field of one of said single hardware I/O control block and another hardware I/O control block upon completion of execution of a different one of said single hardware I/O control block and said another hardware I/O control block wherein
10 said different one is a first to complete execution; and

reporting completion of execution of only one of said single hardware I/O control block and said another hardware I/O control block.

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16. A structure comprising:

a memory containing processor instructions for a host adapter mirroring process, wherein upon execution of said processor instructions said host adapter mirroring process comprises:

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receiving a single hardware I/O control block by a host adapter integrated circuit wherein said host adapter integrated circuit interfaces two I/O buses and further wherein
25 said single hardware I/O control block specifies a write data transaction for a first data storage device; and

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analyzing said single hardware I/O control block by said host adapter integrated circuit to determine whether information in
30 said single hardware I/O control block specifies a mirrored write data transaction for a second data storage device.

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35 17. A structure comprising:

a memory containing processor instructions for a host adapter mirroring process, wherein upon execution of said processor instructions said host adapter mirroring process comprises:

5 receiving a single hardware I/O control block by a host adapter integrated circuit wherein said single hardware I/O control block specifies a write data operation for a first data storage device and includes a
10 sister hardware I/O control block field; and
 generating another hardware I/O control block by said host adapter integrated circuit upon said sister hardware I/O control block field containing a valid hardware I/O control
15 block identification number wherein said another hardware I/O control block specifies said write data operation for a second data storage device so that said write data transaction is mirrored.

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18. A hardware I/O control block structure stored in a memory, said hardware I/O control block structure comprising:

25 a sister hardware I/O control block field; and
 a target identification field.

19. The hardware I/O control block structure stored in a memory as in Claim 18 wherein said hardware I/O control block structure is one of a plurality of
30 hardware I/O control block structures in said memory.

20. A hardware I/O control block memory array comprising:

35 a first hardware I/O control block having a sister hardware I/O control block field; and

a second hardware I/O control block having a sister hardware I/O control block field wherein said sister hardware I/O control block field of said first hardware I/O control block includes a pointer to said second hardware I/O control block and said sister hardware I/O control block field of said second hardware I/O control block includes a pointer to said first hardware I/O control block.

21. A method comprising:

using, in a host system, a single hardware I/O command block structure for both non-mirrored and mirrored transactions for a plurality of storage devices coupled to said host system by a host adapter;

setting a mirror field in said single hardware I/O command block structure to a valid value for a mirrored transaction; and

setting said mirror field in said single hardware I/O command block structure to an invalid value for a non-mirrored transaction.